

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SS-15 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 NSC-10 EB-11 STR-08 IO-15

SPC-03 AID-20 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CEA-02 /144 W

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R 030839Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7818

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2450

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR DA US EEC

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF JENS OTTO KRAG AS EC
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON

REF: COPENHAGEN A-202

SUMMARY: REACTION IN DENMARK TO KRAG'S APPOINTMENT
AS EC AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY
FAVORABLE. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS
OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE AT LUNCH ON OCTOBER 10. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FORMER PRIME
MINISTER JENS OTTO KRAG WILL BECOME EC AMBASSADOR IN
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WASHINGTON AS OF JANUARY 1, 1974 VIEWS APOINTMENT OF
KRAG, A EUROPEAN STATESMAN WITH "EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN WASH-

INGTON" AS INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE EC ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. Krag was offered job in mid-August by Christopher Soames, but asked for time to consider since he had alternative offer to become Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Possible that Krag wished to await outcome of Danish Social Democratic Party Congress before accepting either position. In any case, shortly after Anker Jorgensen consolidated his leadership of party at Congress, Krag officially declined Council of Europe post and accepted EC appointment. Danish Radio has reported that French were opposed to Krag's appointment, in line with their well-known objections to increasing importance of US-EC relations. However, fact that he evidently will be appointed casts doubt on seriousness of French opposition.

2. Krag's move to Washington is welcomed by Krag's personal associates. He is apparently still adjusting to shock of his divorce and a few years away from Denmark, where his ex-wife Helle Virkner is making a theatrical and television comeback, will be beneficial for both. Krag will attend UNGA as member Danish delegation from mid-October to approximately December 1. He intends to visit Washington during that period to look over housing situation.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: Krag will be lunching with me at residence October 10. Would appreciate being informed prior to October 10 of Department's reactions or any other matter Department might wish to bring to Krag's attention.

CROWE

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